

ATTENTION 8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS STUDENTS!

All 8th grade Language Arts students will be beginning their Research Unit as soon as we return from Winter Break on Monday, Jan. 6th. To help get a bit of a “heads start” on this, you are **strongly encouraged** to take some time to consider the topic that most interests you. You may choose from one of the topics on the backside of this paper, or come up with your own that fits the criteria.

Each student will be required to finalize their topic with their teacher by Tuesday, Jan. 7th, and to have a minimum of 3 credible sources by Thursday, Jan. 9th. You will be required to use at least 1 book source as part of your 3.

To assist your “head start” effort, you are **also strongly encouraged** to use some of your Winter Break, if possible, visiting a public library and looking for at least one book on your desired topic. Students who do not do this over break will have an opportunity to search the Nordon Middle School library when you return; however, you will be limited by what’s available to you at that time. Please keep in mind that all 8th graders in the school will be doing this research project at the same time—it’s very possible that someone else in the school (on another team) may choose a similar topic to you.

You will need...

- to choose a topic (see recommended list or sites)
- to purchase a minimum of 45 notecards (recommended: 4 different colors!)
- folder to keep handouts organized
- zip lock sandwich bag or another way to organize/keep notecards together
- highlighters
- pens
- access to internet, library and/or periodical sources
- book(s) on chosen topic ***<--you will be limited to only what’s available in the NMS library, unless you find your own over Winter Break***
- a positive, ready-to-tackle-the-world-of-research attitude & the strongest effort of organization skills you’ve ever applied! :)

Topic:

Conduct research about a person or organization that has created a lasting legacy (have made great lasting accomplishments/ achievements that have impacted society). Your research will focus on 3 areas of this person or corporation’s legacy:

- (1) What influenced him/her or the company?
- (2) Challenges or adversities that were faced while trying accomplish his/her/its goal.
- (3) His/her or its accomplishments and lasting effects on society.

POSSIBLE TOPICS FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE:

Well-known People:

1. Nelson Mandela
2. Winston Churchill
3. Franklin D. Roosevelt, US President
4. Sir Isaac Newton, English mathematician and scientist
5. Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia
6. Christopher Columbus, Explorer
7. Princess Diana
8. Marie Curie
9. Oscar Wilde
10. Henry Ford, Industrialist
11. Bill Gates, Founder of Microsoft
12. Plato, philosopher 424-348 BC
13. Queen Elizabeth II, British Queen
14. Jesse Owens, US Sprinter
15. Mozart, Austrian Music Composer
16. Mother Teresa, nun who served the poor

Authors

1. William Shakespeare
2. Edgar Allan Poe
3. Oscar Wilde
4. George Orwell
5. Ernest Hemingway, US Writer 1899-1961

Organizations

1. Unisef
2. Red Cross
3. PETA
4. St. Judes
5. NAACP
6. ASPCA
7. Save the Children
8. NASA
9. Habitat for Humanity International
10. Boys and Girls Clubs of America

More specific: Legacies that have shaped our country's history and changed people's expectations:

1. Amelia Earhart, first woman pilot to cross the Atlantic
2. Neil Armstrong, first man to walk on the moon
3. Abraham Lincoln
4. Thomas Jefferson
5. George Washington

More specific: Legacies that laid innovative groundwork in entertainment and helped define our experiences with popular culture:

1. Michael Jackson, contributed to prominent shifts in fashion, pop music, and dance for decades as a musician

2. Walt Disney, animation pioneer, creator of Mickey Mouse and founder of Walt Disney World/Disneyland theme parks

More specific: Legacies that left a message or a change in thinking:

1. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and women's rights
2. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement
3. Albert Einstein and our understanding of how the world works
4. Sojourner Truth
5. Rosa Parks
6. Harriet Tubman

More specific: Legacies that solved problems:

1. Jonas Salk, the doctor who invented the polio vaccine
2. Gertrude Elion, who helped develop the drug AZT for AIDS

A few recommended Sites to check out:

- (1) <http://www.biographyonline.net/people/people-who-changed-world.html>
- (2) <http://www.betterworldhandbook.com/action10%28orgs%29.html>